The Pocahontas Times.

If thou wouldst read a lesson that will keep Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and hills.—Longfellow.

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THE WAGONER

The Pocahontas wagoner of the old Times

The first question to be asked by the Pennsylvania timber man who comes down here to invest his money is what we do before the railroad was built in Pocahontas County.

The true answer is that we did mighty well. We were situated far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife and formed a community of people that was sufficient unto itself.

The depot was forty six miles from Marlinton whether we went to Millboro on the east, Ronceverte on the south, or Huttonsville on the north. Hot Springs on the Warm Springs valley branch was thirty five miles but it was never very much patronized as the additional freight on that branch was more than the additional wagoning charges from Millboro.

The most popular route was from Marlinton to Millboro. There were three high mountains to cross and three streams large enough to be dangerous. The road was on a good grade and in summer good load could be hauled.

The merchants paid a dollar a hundred pound freight and the hauling was nearly all done by farmers who would take a week off when the time could be spared on the farm, and bring in a load and clean up twenty or thirty dollars which was a considerable sum in those days.

The rule was to start Monday or Tuesday morning and get back in four or five days. If you started on those days you were sure to strike a wagon train and become part of it by the time the State line was reached. The wagons from Edray, Marlinton, Huntersville and Knapps Creek Valley would trail along together to some camping place where there was good water and wood for the camp fires and keep together until they were safe in the county again.

In Bath we were Ishmaelites. If anything was lost, stolen or burnt up it was laid at the door of Pocahontas waggoners. If the white topped wagons were called schooners the drivers were regarded as pirates by the people of Bath County. Many crimes were committed in our name.

There was a constant feud with the farmers that lived along the route. Very few of these pirates could resist the temptation to use a dry fence rail to start the camp fire and an apple tree stood a very poor chance to bring the owner any great amount of fruit.

A wagoner that was worthy of the name never though of entering a house from the time he left until the time he got back. No matter how cold or stormy it was he wrapped himself in his comforters and slept in or under the wagon with his horses hitched at the feed trough at the back of the wagon.

He had in his grub box enough provisions to last the trip. A frying pan and a coffee pot were added. Bad luck consisted of finding the streams high, having a break down, going over the road down a mountain side, or having a top heavy load fall off.

In the winter the ice made the road dangerous and every now and then a wagon would leave the road and pile up against some convenient tree down the steep mountain side with results varrying from the killing of the driver to inconveniences of a trivial nature.

It the trip was not made so often that it became irksome the work was regarded as recreation and was equal to fishing or hunting trip in camp.

The actual money expended was very little. The toll that Bath County charged was the principle item. We remember when it got to be as high as $2.25 per trip for a two horse wagon and we sweated blood when we paid it and it was the subject of much scrimonious discussion around the camp fires. This tribute that we had to pay a hostile country for passing through it will be remembered for a thousand years.

If in dry weather a wheel fell to pieces or a tire ran off and a bill had to be paid at the wagon makers shop it was no less than a national misfortune. Money was so scarce in those days that often the wagoner did not have the sum required for this unexpected misfortune and had to take up a collection to meet it.

If Bath county levied heavy tolls on us, she endeavored to compensate by maintaining saloons for our especial benefit. For years she ran a grog shop in the woods far from the abodes of men for the purpose of catering to the trade from Pocahontas. Some few of the wagoners who had to sleep in the cold and the wet would purchase perhaps as much as a half a pint of spirits to dispel the gloom. Once in a while a pivate would get so drowsy that he would lie down in his wagon and take a refreshing sleep. Then the wagon train would deputize an extra hand to drive his wagon until he woke up and took charge of the ship again. This deputy was usually some half grown boy who was out for the trip who was given a chance to pilot a real wagon. He would take charge and drive the wagon with all the pride in the world.

After we got in the printing business we used to order printer's ink five and ten gallon kegs. These kegs looked like the ones that liquor is shipped in and when they arrived they were alwrys bored full of holes by some wagoner of inquiring disposition.

Those were the halcyon days of Pocahontas County. Now the land is filled with strangers and everyone is seeking who can make the most money and work the hardest. Money is plentiful but we do not have half so good a time as we did then.

Very little money was in circulation and we needed very little. The advantage of railroad and industrial development do not fully recompense us for the peace and quiet of those days.

Insurance Trust.

New Martinsville, W. Va. —Revelations of an amazing character are expected by some to follow suits shortly to be filed against the fire insurance companies doing business in this state. They will be brought by Prosecuting Attorney E. L. Robinson, upon the grounds that all of the companies doing a fire insurance business in this state are in an illegal and corrupt combination, which is contrary to public policy.

For some years past the insurance rates throughout the state have been constantly and continually increased which Mr. Robinson alleges is due to an unlawful combination on the part of the insurance companies. The companies have what they denominate the Underwriter's Association of the state which is no more or less than an organization of the insurance companies themselves. The board of underwriters fixes the rates for insurance in all the towns and in fact upon all classes of property in the state, including farm property. Each agent is compelled to make an affidavit to maintain these rates and when a policy is written it is first forwarded to the general office, where the stamping clerk, who has a table of rates of all the towns and cities covering all classes of property, compares the rate in the policy with the table, and if it is less than the rate in the policy is rejected and returned.

The Rockingham county, Virginia, wheat crop of 1905 is estimated at 1,800,000 bushels, the largest produced in any county in Virginia. Sixty thresher outfits assisted to house the crop, which required 12,000 tons of fertilizer and brought in a million and half dollars.

Oh, pity the man with a jag on,
Who sees snakes and bugs and a dragon!
Oh, lend him a hand
And help him to land
Right up on the tail water wagon.
—Ex.

BIG LUMBER PLANT

Marlinton has a Chance to Secure It

Mr McKee, of Philadelphia, was in this county last week. He and others have bought the Inness lands comprising about 30,000 acres of timber on the head waters of Elk River which will be operated in the near future.

The timber is mostly hemlock and spruce and is one of the finest bodies of timber in the State. The tract was acquired from the original settlers and is one of the few tracts of timber from which the farmers realized anything like real value.

The timber lies along the various branches of Elk and comes to the head of the Old Field Fork of Elk and the Crooked Fork of Elk clear to the Red Lick Mountain. The eastern end of the timber is about seven miles from Marlinton and about three miles from the Marlinton and Camden Railroad.

Marlinton is the nearest and most available point on the C. & O. to this timber.

Without having any definite information as to where the manufacturing plant of the company will be located, we are impressed with the fact that Marlinton is the logical point for the mills to be located and it would mean a vast deal to the town if we would secure the plant.

The Marlinton & Camden railroad makes it connection with the C. & O. at this place. The former railroad is owned the Campbell Lumber Company and was built to supply their mill at this place but it is a public carrier and we have no doubt that it could be utilized in the marketing of this timber.

The center of the holding of the company is about the mouth of the Slaty fork of Elk seventeen miles from Marlinton. The timber would come into Marlinton at about the same distance as the Campbell Lumber Company's tract on the water of Williams River.

There is at least four few sites here for a big lumber plant and if placed close to as large a town as Marlinton would not only benefit the town but the mill company would receive the benefit of the enhanced value of the plant by reason of its location.

Recent reports indicate a heavy run of shad in the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries in the next 60 days. It has already been reported that shad have passed in the Chesapeake and that large schools are working their way north off the Carolina Coast.

In the Upper Chesapeake and the Susquehanna River the industry has reached considerable magnitude, and in these waters a small army of men, gathered by shipping agents in this city and Philadelphia, are sent to the shores and given employment as long as the fish run at a profit. Many fish are struck, put in the brine until cured, then barrelled and stored away for favorable prices.

E. H. Bobbitt and wife of White Sulphur Springs, who have been visiting at the home of Squire J. N. Leach, in North Alderson, for some days past, left Monday morning for a trip south. They will visit several points in Florida and will also go to Cuba before returning. Mr Bobbitt, who is depot agent at the White, has not had a vacation for some time and his wife, who is but recently out of the Hinton Hospital, needs a change to assist nature in restoring her to normal health. They will spend several week's in the Southland, during which time Mrs. B's mother, Mrs F. A. Renick, will make her home with the family of Squire Leach.—Advertiser.

Among the attendants at the funeral of a lawyer who, though an agnostic, had led a singularly upright life, was a prominent Philadephian who arrived just after the minister had begun his sermon.

"What part of the services have they reached?" he asked an old Quaker.

"Just opened for the defense," was the reply.

Virginian and Graft

The twenty-seventh annual convention of the American Paper and Pulp Association came to an end last night with a dinner in the large ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria, at which 750 guests were present.

The principal speaker was to have been Senator John Daniel of Virginia, but he found that his duties kept him in Washington, and his place was taken by Judge Charles F. Moore of Virginia, who spoke on "Graft."

"Private Allen," said the speaker, "was on the rear platform of a train in Virginia once when the porter told him to go inside.

"Why?" asked Mr Allen. Isn't he platform to stand on?"

"No, sah," replied the negro porter, "the platform is to get in on."

He had found the literature of graft limited. There was, he found, a book on the subject written by an ex New York State Senator, but it told little.

Graft was a modern name. There had always been the tendency. In Wall Street they called it "financiering," in some other streets "larceny." In trade it was "by-products," unless it went to the other fellow. The first law promulgated recognized the tendency of men to graft. It was written, "Thou shalt not steal."

"If you have not access to the book in which that law is to be found," said Judge Moore, "you may get it at the Congressional Library or from one of the Carnegie institutions. I have found that they generally help themselves when they get the chance.

"An old negro preacher down in Virginia said: If I prays to the good Lord the send me a chicken He don't do it; but when I prays for Him to send me after one, I generally gets it.'

Another negro down there who had managed to carry off a good deal of garden truck asked his former employer for a recommendation. The recommendation read: 'John has gotten more out of my garden in the past two years than any man who ever worked for me."

West Virginias Honor

A reader of the Intelligencer calls its attention to a history of the marrirges which have occured at the White House, published in a Pittsburg paper last week, in which there is a manifest error, and also to a kindred error appearing in Mrs. John A. Logan's article on the same subject appearing in the Sunday issue of a New York paper.

The first marriage in the White House had for its principals Hon. John G. Jackson, a member of Congress from the mountain counties of Virginia, and whose residence was at Clarksburg, and Mary Payne, a sister of Dolly Madison, the wife of President Madison. John G. Jackson succeeded his father, George Jackson, who was the first representative in Congress of the present territory of West Virginia.

Mary Payne, his wife and the first bride of the White House, died at Clarksburg and was buried there. Her husband's second wife was a daughter of Return Jonathan Meigs, who was the first governor of Ohio. The error in stating that he married a Miss Todd, as stated by Mrs. Logan, or a Mrs. Todd, as stated by the Pittsburg Dispatch, evidently arose from the fact that Dolly Madison's first husband was a Mr. Todd, of Philadelphia, and she was the Widow Todd when married by James Madison, and this ceremony was performed at Herewood, Jefferson county, W. Va., a few miles from Charlestown.

The fact that the first White House groom was a resident of what is now West Virginia and that he was the grandfather of Judge John J. Jackson, the first federal judge for West Virginia, was referred to incidentally in the able and eloquent address delivered by Col John T. McGraw at the St. Louis exposition, and it is of particularly timely interest [illegible] knowledge of the fact

BENEDICTIONS

Distinction between Prayer and Benediction

The theme considered in this meditation pertains to prayer and benedictions. Those of our readers who have a clear perception as to what is prayer and what are benedictions are to be congratulated upon what they have attained in the way of Scriptural intelligence, and the wisdom that makes wise unto eternal life. By common consent it is understood that prayer is an expression of our desires to God in the name of Christ for things agreeable to his will, confessing our sins and gratefully acknowledging his benefits toward us, in the forgiveness of iniquities, healing our diseases.—Psalm 103.

While the benedictions are expressions from God to praying people, revealing his purposes and intentions for their best interests for time and eternity.

So it appears that prayer may be uttered by any and all persons, and in their own words, while benedictions are more appropriately to be spoken by the ambassadors of Jesus Christ, by his authority, in words that Christ has chosen and in forms of expression authorized by the spirit of all truth.

The form most frequently used is found in the conclusion of seven epistles: Romans, 1st Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1st and 2nd Thessalonians and Revelation. It is this, "The grace of our Lord." It will require eternity to realize what "grace" means, so amazing in its significance as something more than love. For grace means unmerited favor to the undeserving, and the love which is active in the forms of kindness and of blessings. Hence it means God's divine wish and purpose for his humble, prayful sons and daughters.

Another benediction is in this form, "The peace of God." "Now the God of peace be with you all."—Romans 15, 33; "Peace to the brethren and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus."—Ephesians 6, 23; "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds."—Phil. 4, 7; "Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus."—1st Peter, 5, 14. From all this it appears that "Peace" is a consoling form of the "grace of God" referred to above and means grace that is manifested in forgiving sins.

In Galations 6, 16, this notable verse octurs, "As many as walk according to this rule peace be on them, and mercy upon the Israel of God." Upon due reflection on this form of benediction and comparing it with the two forms of benediction already noticed it appears that "mercy" is more than "grace" and "grace" is more than "peace." This may appear in this way, by contrasting the different words used in the forms of benediction. Grace is love and kindness to the undeserving; peace is the smile of our Heavenly Father upon those who have been in strife with Him but sought his forgiveness "with broken hearts and contrite sighs" to be merciful unto them.

And thus it follows that "Mercy" is free forgiveness and full pardon to those who have merited punishment by trying to live ungodly lives for a season.

Briefly stated, what we have learned about the benedictions amounts to this: Grace is an outcome of love; peace is an outcome of forgiveness, while mercy is the outcome of our Lord's atonement on the cross as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

In that wonderful chapter, Romans 15, we find this to be the 14th verse, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing."

Let us notice the order in which benediction blessings come. Grace flows from God's love; peace from forgiveness; mercy from the atonement; joy flows [illegible] knowledge of the fact that tears of grief can never pay the debt we owe, that all that can be done is to give ourselves sway for there is no other name given under heaven among men where by we can be saved but the name of Christ, and being conscious of this giving ourselves away we realize that if we are not saved then God's promise is broken—a something that cannot possibly be. It is this that produces the satisfying state of mind that is here called "Joy and peace in believing." Hence it is in the order of the benedictions, joy flows from the consciousness that we are reconciled to God, and are admitted to his family as sons and daughters of the Heavenly Household.

There are special reasons, too, not expedient to enlarge upon in an article like this, for remembering that this benediction joy rests upon the hope which God gives the believer through the work of the work of Christ. Hence the expression "The God of hope fill you."

As one meditates upon the benedictions and however much there appears to awaken sentiments of praise and adoration still the theme opens wider and wider. Beside and above the benediction peace and joy, comes the bestowal of the transforming influence of the Holy Spirit to make the seekers and receivers of benediction blessings more and more like God.

In Hebrews 13, 21, "Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant make you perfect in every good work to his will."

Here we find Christian consecration pure and absolute, and need not fret ourselves or hurt the feelings of christian brethren about questions sprung upon the christian world the past two or three centuries since the Reformation. Questions, too, that Bible writers never had the least idea of in their time, but among the many inventions sought out by human ingenuity. In reference to those who are living in the grand and solemn times now upon us, when to be living is in a sense more sublime than it was for those who have but recently passed from the world's vast and busy scene of action, the benediction found in 1st Thessalonians 5, 23, should have more than ordinary interest. It reads in this way, "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

It is manifest from this benediction that even though our bodies should moulder in the burial clay, God's purpose is that they should be preserved unto the coming of Christ.

Now if our bodies be included how much more our souls, and being thus preserved it must mean preservation forever and forever.

As there is nothing more in sight to be asked for after all we have in our power to learn from a study of the benedictions let this contemplation be closed by repeating from 2nd Corinthians 13, 14 the benediction that is repeated from every pulpit in the habitable world, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all." Here we have the declaration on apostolic authority that all the three Persons of the Godhead are uniting to protect us, to help us, to bless us, each in his own sphere and all uniting to give us everlasting happiness.

"How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word,
What more can he say than to you he hat said.
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled."

W. T. P.

J. R. Droney who recently purchased the Island Lick Lumber Co's, holdings at Seebert, has four and a half miles of railway surveyed. He will build his mills and town on the Pyles farm near the railway bridge. They expect to be cutting lumber by July 1st

IMPORTANT DECISION

Judge Bennett Affirmed in a "Deficiency" Land Case.

Winton et al vs McGraw et al, from Pocahontas county. Affirmed. Opinion by Judge Poffenbarger.

This is an appeal by John T. McGraw, from a decree of the circuit court of Pocahontas county in a suit brought against him by W. W. Winton and others, executors of Edward Dolph, deceased, for the enforcement of a vendor's lien against a certain tract of land, presenting the question whether said appellant is entitled to an abatement from the purchase money for deficiency in the quanity of land. In his opinion, Judge Poffenbarger says:

1. Whether a contract or sale of real estate, executed by the delivery of a deed, conveying land, was a sale by the acre or a sale in gross, must be ascertained from the terms of the deed, unless it be ambigious. But, if the deed is ambigious, parol evidence of the circumstances which surrounded the parties and their situation, when the deed was made, and their conduct in carrying the contract into execution' is admissible, not to prove in point of fact a sale by the acre, but only to aid in construing the deed, and no other kind of parol evidence is admissible for such purpose.

2. When, by reason of a positive affirmation in a deed of the quanity of the land conveyed, the deed is ambiguous on its face, as to whether a warranty of quanity was intended by the vendor, parol evidence of the circumstances which surrounded the parties and their situation, when the deed was made, and their conduct in carrying the contract into execution' may be considered in determining, by construction of the deed, whether such implied warrantry was intended, but no other parol evidence can be considered.

3 A deed, ambiguous on its face as to whether the sale was by the acre or in gross, and as to whether an implied warranty of a quanity was intended, is prima facie a contract of sale in gross and without such warrantry.

4. A positive affirmation in a deed, as to the quanity of the land conveyed by it, is a representation by the grantor upon which the grantee is presumed to have relied. In determining the price he agreed to pay, and if the quanity actually conveyed turns out to be materially less than that, so represenued, a prima facie case of fraudulent misrepresentation by the vendor is thereby established, giving the vendee a right to compensation for the deficiency, but all kinds of relevant and material parol evidence is admissible, on behalf of the vendor, to prove that the vendee did not rely upon the representation, or believe it to be true, and was not influenced by it in agreeing to pay the price stipulated, but not to contradict the statement made in the deed, and, on behalf of the vendee, to prove that he did rely on the statement and was injured thereby. In such case, the issue is one of fact, as to intent, without any limitation upon relevent parol evidence, except that the representation cannot be denied, as such denial would be a contradiction of the written contract.

Rev. B.— of New York is a very popular preacher, and every day many persons visit him at his home in search of religious consolation or of advice. The very small daughter of the house is quite observing and much to the surprise of her parents seems to take a great interest in her father's callers. One day when her father was away, a noted bishop called to see him on business connected with the church. The little girl answered his ring at the door bell.

"Is your father in, my little maid?" the great man asked kindly. Two round blue eyes gazed at him solemnly for a few seconds; then she took hold of his hand, and in a voice filled with compassion, said: "No, father is not in now, but come in poor dying sinner, mother will pray for you."
—Lippincott's

Eggs At 6 Cents.

New York—The phenomenally mild and open winter, which has kept the hens industrious, has smashed the egg market, and the cold-storage men and wholesale dealers are facing losses amounting into the millions.

In New York city there is to day a surplus of cold-storage eggs estimated at 60,000 cases, or 21,600,000 eggs. There is besides a surplus of fresh-laid eggs of unknown quantity. Eggs are almost dirt cheap. Storage eggs are selling at 6 to 10 cents a dozen wholesale, while fresh laid eggs sell at 14 cents or a little more a dozen it wholesale.

These conditions are not confined to New York and vicinity. According to well informed produce men they obtain over the whole country.

Dealers say it is 10 years since they have seen such a market as the present one. The market of 1900 was somewhat similar, but there was no such surplus of storage and fresh eggs as there is at present.

The millions of storage eggs now on the market must be eaten soon or they will go to waste. They will not keep many weeks longer. Eggs are put in cold storage in March and April, and they will keep in good condition for a year, but not much longer.

When they are more than a year old they begin to acquire the peculiar flavor of sulphurated hydrogen and are not palatable.

A Really Considerate Conductor

On a Suburban trolley-car the other day a man got on who was badly under the influence of liquor. He got a seat and made himself quite offensive to an old lady who sat near him. When the conductor came around for his fare this old lady jumped up and said:

"Conductor, do you allow drunken people on this car?"

"No, madam," replied the conductor, "but sit down and nobody will notice you."

At the commencement exercises of one of our large colleges a prominent lawyer had been asked to address the graduates. Being very busy about that time, he neglected to give any thought to the subject of his discourse. On arriving at the hall where the exercise were held he was still at a loss for a topic. In passing through a large swing door which led into the hall itself, the word "Push" painted on the door happend to to catch his eye. Like a flash it occured to him that there was a text that he could use very appropriately. When his turn came to speak, he arose and addressed the audience in somewhat the following manner.

"Young gentlemen, the subject of my little talk with you this morning can be expressed in one short word; it is a thing that is especially applicable to you young men who go outin life to make your way. It is a thing without which no man is sure of attaining success. Gentlemen, on yonder door is the word I refer to."

Every eye in the room immediately glanced toward the door indicated, but on the inside the word "Pull" was plainly painted.

The laughter and applause which followed were nearly deafening and it was some time before he could explain his statement.
—Lippincott's

Not for Him

A Quiet and retiring citizen occupied a seat near the door of a crowded car when a masterful stout woman entered.

Having no newspaper behind which to hide he was fixed and subjugated by her glittering eye. He rose and offered his place to her seating herself—without thanking him—she exclaimed in tones that reached to the farthest end of car:

"What do you want to stand up there for? Come here and sit on my lap."

"Madam," gasped the man, as his face became scarlet, "I beg your pardon, I—I—"

"What do you mean?" shrieked the woman.

"You know very well I was speaking to my niece there behind you."